



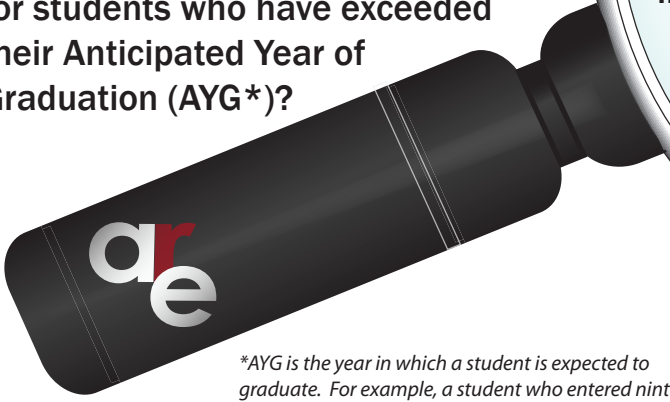
Question:

What are the patterns in graduation and completion rates for students who have exceeded their Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG*)?

Answer:

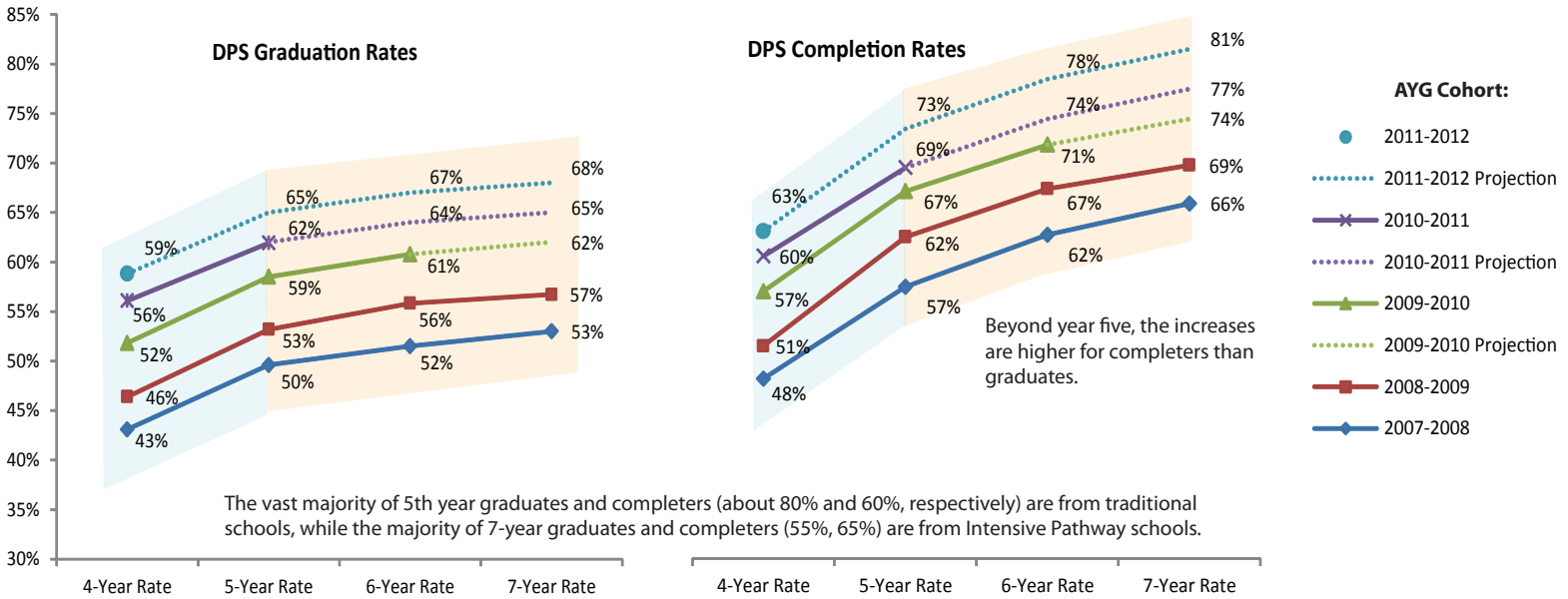
DPS graduation and completion rates have steadily increased over the last four years.

Furthermore, given one additional year (five instead of four), the graduation rate typically increases 7% and the completion rate typically increases 10%. After the fifth year, graduation and completion rates continue to increase, but at a slower pace.



*AYG is the year in which a student is expected to graduate. For example, a student who entered ninth grade for the first time in 2007-2008 is assigned to the 2010-2011 AYG cohort.

Completion rates include students who graduate or receive certificates or other designations of high school completion (e.g., GED).



Recommendations:

- Invest resources to improve the district's data systems to accurately identify students who are off-track. This will allow district and school staff to support students in a timely manner.
- Consider offering programs like evening courses, Credit Recovery programs, work-based credit opportunities, concurrent enrollment and blended learning environments (American Youth Policy Forum, 2012). For example, the state of Texas has reported success in implementing the Dropout Recovery Pilot Program, which uses a combination of academic and social supports (e.g., child care and transportation), open entry and exit, online courses, and weekend and evening classes; 31% of dropout students who participated in the program were able to earn a high school diploma, obtain GED, earn college credit, or pass a state assessment (Texas Education Agency, 2010).